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1. Pervukhin represents, in the Kremlin, a group in favor of a quick and practical settlement of the German question, and which is ready to make concessions to Western Germany, not only in economic matters, but also in the political field.
2. This group is opposed by Malenkov's supporters in East Germany, V S Semenov and I F Iljichev, who favor easing tension with West Germany in the economic field, but who consider direct Soviet negotiations with West Germany as an abandonment of the Pieck-Grotewohl-Ehricht government, which must ultimately bring about the collapse of the regime.
3. Molotov and his advisers from the diplomatic group, such as Gromyko, Malik, G N Zarubin and S A Vinogradov, have been under strong pressure from both sides and have so far avoided taking a definite stand. Molotov is still of the opinion that anti-Soviet feeling in the West German population will not fundamentally hinder direct negotiations with West Germany, which must be convinced by events of the desirability of cooperating with the Soviet orbit.

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